

Summary San Juan Mountains Wilderness Bill Proposed Legislation

This legislation includes 63,475 acres of public land on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison and San Juan National Forests and San Juan Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Area. All of the acreage affected by this proposal is in San Miguel, Ouray and San Juan Counties and a wilderness designation was requested by the County Commissions of those three counties.

Under this proposed legislation the following areas will receive Wilderness Area designations:

- 3,374 acres will be added to the existing Lizard Head Wilderness Area by the Blackface, Sunshine and Wilson additions.
- 9,086 acres will be added to the existing Mt. Sneffels Wilderness Area by the Liberty Bell and Last Dollar additions.
- 13,224 acres will be added to the existing Mt. Sneffels Wilderness Area by the Whitehouse addition.
- 8,614 acres of the McKenna Peak Wilderness Study Area will be designated as Wilderness

In addition, two other designations will be created by the proposed legislation.

- 22,582 acres will be designated as the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area. Existing uses including heliisking will be allowed to continue indefinitely, but no new roads or other development will be permitted.
- 6,595 acres will be withdrawn from eligibility for mineral leasing in Naturita Canyon. No other uses in the canyon will be impacted.

Key Provisions

Hardrock 100 Race

The Hardrock 100 will be allowed to continue in any areas designated as Wilderness or Special Management Area by this proposal.

Water language

The water language in the proposal prohibits any federal water rights and guarantees access for water users to maintain and repair water facilities.

Grazing

Grazing will continue in all areas designated by the bill as allowed under current law.